

Attorney Docket No. 46521-56183  
Application Serial No. 10/720,330

**Amendments to the Claims:**

1. (cancelled)

2. (cancelled)

3. (cancelled)

4. (cancelled)

5. (cancelled)

6. (new)

A method comprising:

providing a first cassette, the first cassette comprising a bottom wall, a front wall, a back wall, and two side walls, the bottom, the front, the back, and the side walls forming a first container having a top opening;

providing a second cassette, the second cassette comprising a bottom wall, a front wall, a back wall, and two side walls, the bottom, the front, the back, and the side walls of the second cassette forming a second container, the bottom wall of the second cassette comprising a plurality of apertures extending therethrough;

placing a histological specimen within the first container through the top opening of the first container;

interlocking the first cassette with the second cassette in a manner such that the bottom wall of the second cassette closes the top opening of the first container to thereby prevent the histological specimen from exiting the first container;

flowing liquid paraffin through the apertures of the bottom wall of the second cassette from one of the first and second containers and into the other of the first and second containers, the flowing occurring while the first and second cassettes remain interlocked as recited.

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7. (new)

A method in accordance with claim 6 wherein the step of interlocking the first cassette with the second cassette comprises forcibly moving the second cassette relative to the first cassette in a manner snapping the first cassette and the second cassette together.

8. (new)

A method in accordance with claim 7 wherein the step of interlocking the first cassette with the second cassette occurs in a manner such that the snapping generates an audible sound upon completion.

9. (new)

A method in accordance with claim 8 wherein the bottom wall of the first cassette comprises a portion having a generally planer upper face, and wherein the step of the interlocking the first cassette with the second cassette comprises forcibly moving the second cassette relative to the first cassette in a direction generally perpendicular to the upper face in the manner snapping the first cassette and the second cassette together.

10. (new)

A method in accordance with claim 6 wherein the bottom wall of the first cassette comprises a plurality of apertures extending therethrough.

11. (new)

A method in accordance with claim 10 wherein each of the side walls of the first cassette comprises a plurality of apertures extending therethrough.

12. (new)

A method in accordance with claim 6 wherein the first and second cassettes have generally identical geometry and dimensions.

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13. (new)

A method comprising:

providing a first cassette, the first cassette comprising a bottom wall, a front wall, a back wall, and two side walls, the bottom, the front, the back, and the side walls forming a first container having a top opening;

providing a second cassette, the second cassette comprising a bottom wall, a front wall, a back wall, and two side walls, the bottom, the front, the back, and the side walls of the second cassette forming a second container, the bottom wall of the second cassette comprising a plurality of apertures extending therethrough;

placing a histological specimen within the first container through the top opening of the first container;

interlocking the first cassette with the second cassette;

flowing liquid paraffin through the apertures of the bottom wall of the second cassette from one of the first and second containers and into the other of the first and second containers, the flowing occurring while the first and second cassettes remain interlocked as recited.

14. (new)

A method in accordance with claim 13 wherein the first cassette is devoid of a lid for closing the top opening of the first container, and the step of interlocking the first cassette with the second cassette occurs in a manner such that the bottom wall of the second cassette closes the top opening of the first container to thereby prevent the histological specimen from exiting the first container.